

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board

Meeting Number 1 (5-15)

May 4, 2015

Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board meetings are held the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate. Meetings are held at the Harford County Sheriff's Office Southern Precinct, 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040.

Meeting Number 1 was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairperson Paula Mullis, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance. Special greetings were extended to community members and guests. Guests present were Andrew Tress of the Harford County Government; Brad Killian, Chief of Planning and Zoning of the Harford County Government; Jennie King, Deputy Chief of Planning and Zoning; Sam Kohl, representing Senator Bob Cassilly; Bret Shreiber, Director of Government and Community Relations; Trudy Meade, representing Pamela Ziggler, principal of Joppatowne H.S.; Sue Sapp, representing Council President Slutzky; District A Councilman Mike Perrone; Donna Blasdel, Assistant to Councilman Mike Perrone; and Bob Frisch, member of the Harford County School Board. Present as continuing members from the local council and now members of the Community Advisory Board (CAB) were Paula Mullis, Gloria Moon, Doris G. Carey, James B. Lyons, III, Ron Sollod, and Vincent Rabenau. New CAB members present were former councilman Dion F. Guthrie, Pastor Alfred Reeves, Reno Eitel, and Fran Salbeck.

Sheriff's Office / Community Policing Report

Captain John Krass, Southern Precinct Commander, reported that there seems to be a trend of vehicle break-ins and property stolen from vehicles. He suggested that community members lock their car doors and also remove valuables. Capt. Krass also mentioned that shopping centers and grocery stores are targeted by thieves. Thieves are stealing wallets and using the bank cards quickly before the owners are aware of the loss. Panera Bread seems to be a popular place for thefts. Customers often hang purses on the back of chairs and are not aware that they have been robbed. Capt. Krass suggested if the community had questions, call him at the precinct.

Harford County Planning and Zoning Presentation

Andrew Tress mentioned before the planning and zoning presentation that he would take any questions from the community members back to the County Executive.

Planning and Zoning Director, Brad Killian, shared ideas concerning updating the Harford County Master Plan. A new model of the plan was organized around six general themes. The idea is to try to organize how people think and plan around their daily lives. The themes include economic vitality, preserving our heritage, mobility and connectivity, as well as promoting healthy communities. Director Killian stated that Harford's next master plan is for the next generation. Planning and Zoning is reaching out to as many people as possible to get new ideas. The idea is to make a desirable place for people to live. Gloria Moon, CAB member, stated that a few years ago people in the Joppa/Joppatowne area worked hard on the Master Plan for this area. A lot of good ideas are in the plan. Vincent Rabenau asked Director Killian how will success be measured concerning the Master Plan and will the county put in money to support the plan. The Planning and Zoning Department desires to have widespread participation in the process, to create a document that will be easily implemented. Getting the document done in a timely fashion is important. Gloria Moon suggested that the old Joppa/Joppatowne Master Plan has a lot of good information. Therefore, it will be updated and provided to the County master planning process. There are a lot of good ideas that the Joppa/Joppatowne community members don't want thrown away. All participants agreed that a lot of excellent observations were shared. The question is what do we want our communities to be? Communities have their vision and planning and zoning is the engine that makes it happen.

Board of Education Update by Bob Frisch

Board of Education member Bob Frisch mentioned that the week of May 4 was teacher appreciation week. He suggested that community members go on the Harford County Schools web page and send a thank you to a teacher. It would be appreciated. The Board has come to an agreement with the education association that there should be salary enhancements this year. He thinks salary is the reason that at least 10% of the teaching staff has left the system. Harford County pays teachers one of the lowest salaries in the State. Frisch mentioned that he is not on the Joppa/Joppatowne Community Advisory Board. However, he will continue to attend meetings as much as possible.

County Council and Community Update by Councilman Mike Perrone

Councilman Perrone stated that Rev. Donte Hickman has expressed that he would take \$1.5 million for the pool property located on Joppa Farm Rd. Perrone stated that if the Reverend came down in price, the county might be interested. Councilman Perrone stated that he has spoken with a couple of

other owners who may be interested in selling their property, so there is a plan B. There is to be tree planting at Magnolia Middle School this week. Also, a public hearing on the county budget is scheduled for Thursday at 7 p.m. at Joppatowne High School. Several questions were asked of the councilman about things going on in the community. In response to the Pizza Hut question, he said the process is still moving forward. Former Councilman Dion Guthrie and Jeff Skarda asked Councilman Perrone why he voted no on the hotel/motel tax bill - a bill that was supported by the County Executive and all other council members except Perrone. They also wanted to know why Councilman Perrone did not put in an amendment to allow District A to receive over a million dollars each year for the next three years. Councilman Perrone said that he has responded. He mentioned there is no mechanism to spend tax dollars in non-incorporated areas. There is no exemption for poor people living in motels (not sure of the number of such persons); he does not feel a new tax is appropriate when we have not been through a full year's cycle of expense review; and he thinks that Harford County has a competitive advantage by not instituting a hotel tax.

Community Issues from CAB Members and Other Community Members

James B. Lyons III and Ron Sollod of the Joppa-Magnolia Volunteer Fire Company mentioned that their lease of the Hanson Rd firehouse will expire in September 2015. Even though the volunteers will not be thrown out, they are going through a lot of military hoops. However, progress is being made and they expect to sign a lease soon for another 25 years. Ron Sollod passed out a fact sheet on fire safety and carbon monoxide showing ways to protect yourself from the silent killer.

Gloria Moon attended a budget advisory board and shared that Harford Community College made \$1.5 million in cuts; there will be no pay raises; tuition will be increased; and this is necessary to balance the budget by 2017. There are 7,000 full-time students for credit courses and 11,000 non-credit students per year.

Pastor Alfred Reeves who represents the **boys 2 MEN** Mentoring programs at Joppatowne H.S., Edgewood H.S., Edgewood Middle School, Deerfield Middle School and Magnolia Middle School (MMS) said that there will be tree planting with Harford Glenn and the **boys 2 MEN** program at Magnolia Middle School. There will be a parent workshop at MMS on May 16 from 9 a.m to 12 noon. The JHS calendar is out for May and June. Members of the JHS PTSA shared information for the Wounded Warrior 5 K walk.

From the community, Sue Heselton gave an update on the parade and carnival. The carnival starts May 26 and runs through May 30. The parade will be in Edgewood on July 5. She is working with the Sheriff's Office for a successful event. She also said that a free concert will be held after the parade at Flying Point Park from 8 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Sue expressed concerned about the possible loss of money and land for the Arts in Harford County.

Bob Frisch stated that the stadium around the back of JHS is almost complete. Excavation will continue soon. He said former councilman Dion Guthrie was very helpful in getting \$200,000 to attack the water problem at JHS.

Raine Harkins is very concerned about a tattoo parlor in her neighborhood. She said across the street from her home is a tattoo parlor with a wall painting of a naked mermaid which she finds very offensive. She has called the county government but has been unable to get any assistance. Two representatives of the county government attending the CAB meeting said they would look into the matter and get back to her.

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

Doris G. Carey, Secretary